THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA); (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) CompIaints under Section 406/409 IPC have been filed in both the ca&e$_s$ recently and the matter is being followed up with the Police authorities.

Ban on Recruitment

*268. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the ban on recruitment ln Central Government offices and pubiic sector undertakings has been withdrawn; and

(b) what is the amount saved by Govarnment during the ban period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI); (a) and

(b) Tb.3 Government have recently modfied the guidelines regarding filling up of vacancies. According to tha revised guidlines, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, vacancies both Pian and non-Plan arising due to promotion, retirement, death, resignation dismissal, removal or deputation etc can now be filled up.

Likewise, the Department of Public Enterprices of the Ministry of Industry have already reviewed the orders regarding ban on recruitment in the public sector enterprises. It is not considered feasible to impose ati absolute ban on recruitment to posts if the public sector enterprises which are run on commercial lines and are dealing with production and supply of essential goods and services. Accordingly, subiect to certain conditions relaxation has been permitted 4n re-n-nU^ent to vacancies in public Sector enterprises.

It is not possible to make an estimate o* the expenditure that weuld have occurred had there been no ban on fresh recruitment. As such an estimate of the amount saved on thii account is not available.

Raids conducted by tbe Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

*269. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence carried out a countrywide raid on 96 business and residential premises for offences under the Cu toms Act on 22 July, 1986; if so, with what results; and

(b) whether the D.R.I, also undertook a strict inspection of the baggage at th$_e$ international airportg the same day, if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI); (a) On 21st/22nd July, 1986, the officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence launched a country-wide operation, code-named "RANA" in co-ordination with the Customs authorities for unearthing custom$_s$ offences and foreign exchange racketeering-. During the operation, 96 business and residential premises, throughout th» country, were searched. As a result, contraband goods worth Rs. 1.63 crores, Indian and foreign currency worth Rs. 12.52 Iakhs and shares of face value Rs. 1.52 crores suspected to be in the names of fictitious firms, were seized. Incriminating documents indicating over-invoicing, non-repatriation of export proceeds and other FERA violation to the tune of Rs.12.01 crores and holding in foreign banks worth US 19 million were also seized,

'(b) During the Operation. IOO per. cent examination of incoming passengers' baggage and 10 per cent examination of the outgoing passengers? baggage were undertaken at all the international airports. As a result.

1521 totals of foreign marked gold val ued at Rs. 37.5 lakhs were seized at Bombay and Madras. One passenger was arrested in this connection at Bombay. ' In addition, contraband goods valued at Rs. 1.23 Iakhs were seized and additional duty of Rs. 9.24 Iakhs was collected over the average daily collections.

Cooperation amongst the member countries of SAARC

*270. SHRl RAOOF VALIULLAH: Wili the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Study Groups of the first SAARC Conference had identified areas of cooperative ventures by member countries;

(b) if so, what were the areas identified and whether any major project of common interest has been launched since then or is expected to be launched before the second summit in Bangalore;

(c) whether adequate preparatory work has been done for the second summit due in November this year; and

(d) whether India propose to take the initiative to start collaborative ventures in areas like telecommunications and meteoro logy in which she is relatively advanced; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRl K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) :o (d) The first South Asian Summit was held in Dhaka in December, 1985 when the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was launched and a Charter fo$_r$ it was adopted. Before the Summit, cooperation among the South Asian countries had been initiated under an Integra'cd Programme of Action adopted by the first meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the South Asian countries held in New Delhi in August, 1983. The Programme covered • agreed areas of cooperation:

(i) agriculture;

(ii) health and population activities;

(iii) ireteorology;

(iv) postal services;

(v) rural development;

(vi) scientific and technological co-operation;

(vii) sports, arts and culture;

(viii) telecommunication; and

(ix) transport

Activities in each of the 9 area* wete guided and coordinated by a Technical Committee.

Cooperation in the above areas have been mainly in the form of seminars, workshops, studies and surveys and compilations of existing capabilities in the countries of the r^{e}Sion which can be utilised by the other countries. Technical Committees have also been examining a number of proposals for establishing regional institutions. Some of these are: Regional Meteorological Research Centre Regional Agriculture information Centre, Regional Centre for Postal Research and Development, Regional Software Centre in the field of Telecommunications networking-of institutions involved in bio-gas and solar energy & Regional Centre for Tuberculosis.

A[the Dhaka Summit, the Heads of State/Government decided to convene two study groups, one for exploring the possi-bilities of cooperation for combating terrorism in the region and the other for dealing with the problems of drug trafficking and abuse. They also decided to cor-vene a Ministerial meeting on the role of women in development and another one for formulating a common approach to international economic issues. These two Ministerial meetings and that of th« *St»4f* Group on Terrorism hav$_e$ already been held. Their recommendations as well as important proposals under consideration by the Technical Committees, $_a$re going to be considered at the meetings of the SAARC Standing Committee and Council of Ministers to be held in Dhaka im the second week of August.

India has played its due role in initiating proposals and implementing those allotted to it, under the aegis of SAARC. Preparatory work for the second SAARC